

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOCI

SUBJ: 32D UNGA--THIRD COMMITTEE/ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES, ITEM 76

1. GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM 76 CONTINUED THE AFTERNOON OF NOV 21 WITH 11 SPEAKERS TAKING THE FLOOR. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. IN A VITRIOLIC ADDRESS, IRAQI REP CHARGED THAT CERTAIN STATES ATTEMPT TO USE UN BODIES AS AN EXTENSION OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICIES. HE CITED US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO, SUSPENSION OF FUNDS TO UNESCO IN 1974, AND BOYCOTT OF THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AS US ATTEMPTS TO IMPEDE THE WORK OF THE UN. HE DECLARED THAT THE EFFORT TO CREATE A POST OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (A/C.3/32/L.25/REV.1) WOULD BE POINTLESS AND WOULD ONLY LEAD TO INTERFERENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF STATES. IRAQ SUPPORTED A/C.3/32/L.17 (IRANIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION).

3. ISRAELI REP STRESSED THE PRIMACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OVER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS. IN RESPONSE TO IRAQI ATTACK ON ISRAEL, HE CHARGED THAT IRAQ HAD VIOLATED THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE KURDS.

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4. BULGARIAN REP SAID THE IDEA OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS NOT JUSTIFIED, THAT IT WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER IN THAT IT WOULD INFRINGE ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE WEST OSTENSIBLY PROMOTES HUMAN RIGHTS, IT VETOES SANCTIONS AGAINST "THE RACIST REGIMES" THAT VIOLATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MILLIONS.

5. SYRIAN REP DECLARED THAT "THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS CANNOT TAKE PRIORITY OVER THE RIGHTS OF SOCIETY." HE OPINED THAT "A CERTAIN NUMBER OF NGSO HAVE EXCEEDED THE 288(X) POWERS OF ECOSOC" AND FELT THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE "POLITICAL OBJECTIVES" WHICH INTERFERE IN UNRELATED AREAS. SYRIA SUPPORTED L.17 BUT OPPOSED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AS WELL AS A/C.3/32/L.28 (BELGIAN DRAFT) RESOLUTIONS.

6. BYELORUSSIAN CONDEMNED THE CONCEPT OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER AS "AN IMPEDIMENT TO THE XPANSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS." HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION HAD MADE "THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION TO A CERTAIN EXTENT POINTLESS."

7. IN A SARCASTIC SPEECH, KUWAITI AMB TERMED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AN "IMPERISHABLE ITEM" IN THAT IT ALWAYS COMES UP." THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS A "TROJAN HORSE, OUTWARDLY PURSE, BUT INWARDLY DEVISIVE." IT WOULD INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL RIGHTS OF STATES AND THE "FIRST VICTIM" WOULD BE THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE OF ITS POLICIES ON SOVIET JEWS. EVENTUALLY, "EVERYBODY WILL BECOME A TARGET" ONCE THIS "PANDORA'S BOX" IS OPENED.

8. AS FOR OTHER SPEAKERS MONGOLIA AND YUGOSLAVIA
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SUPPORTED L.17 WHILE OPPOSING L.25; PORTUGAL, AUSTRIA, AND HONDURAS VOICED SUPPORT OF L.25 WITH PORTUGAL SUPPORTING L.17 AS WELL.

9. CUBAN REP REQUESTED THAT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF L.25 BE GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO ANY VOTE ON IT.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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